

THE
O U T L I N E S
OF A
P L A N

FOR ESTABLISHING A

UNITED COMPANY

OF

British Manufacturers.

" The Channels of Commerce, were they open alike to the Enterprize
" of all Nations, are so numerous and copious in the four Quarters of
" the Globe, that the Industry of all the Manufacturers in Europe
" might be fully employed in supplying them. AMERICA IS DOUBLING
" HER NUMBERS, and will, for many Years, want Supplies from the
" Manufacturies of Great Britain. AFRICA WILL, IN TIME, CI-
" VILIZE HER MILLIONS, and afford, for Centuries, a Market for the
" Commodities of all Europe. What FOLLY is it then in civilized,
" what WICKEDNESS in Christian, States, to be engaged every ten or
" twenty Years in DESTROYING MILLIONS OF MEN, for the Pro-
" tection or the Acquisition of arbitrary Monopolies !!!"

BISHOP WATSON.

L O N D O N :

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1798.

[PRICE SIXPENCE.]

UNITED COMPANY
OF
BRITISH MANUFACTURERS.

THERE is no country, perhaps, more justly admired for the number and variety of its charitable establishments than Great Britain. They form a strong and highly honourable trait of the national character. To point out the defects or abuses of many of them would perhaps be considered as invidious by the proposer of a new institution; but he hopes he may be permitted to remark
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that the best purposes of humanity and beneficence can never be so effectually promoted as by furnishing the industrious with employment, instructing the ignorant in some necessary art, calling into action every natural or acquired power both of mind and body, securing to the destitute every reasonable comfort at the fair and natural price of their ingenuity or labour, and even enabling them, by a part of the surplus of their industry, to repay the goodness of their benefactors ; taking away from the idle and dishonest the usual plea for beggary or theft, and converting those, who might otherwise be a burthen, a disgrace, or an injury, to society, into some of its most useful and truly respectable supporters.

ON THIS GRAND UNION OF INTEREST WITH CHARITY, OF PRIVATE
WITH

WITH PUBLIC GOOD, ON THIS OBVIOUS, THOUGH HITHERTO UNTRIED, PRINCIPLE OF RECIPROCAL BENEFIT TO THE RICH AND THE POOR, TO THE BENEVOLENT AND THE OBJECTS OF THEIR KIND REGARD, TO THE EMPLOYERS AND THE EMPLOYED, it is designed to form an association, under the title of THE UNITED COMPANY OF BRITISH MANUFACTURERS, who may either reject, adopt, enlarge, or improve upon, the sketch now respectfully submitted to the public.

In order that the plan may undergo a full, fair, and judicious, discussion, the present address is intended to invite men of talents and philanthropy to communicate their remarks on the subject; and then a meeting will be requested of the most eminent Mas-

TER-MANUFACTURERS, in every department, to examine the various means which may be suggested to give efficacy to the institution.

It has been already hinted that the leading object of this undertaking is to supply the well-disposed with constant employment, to secure to labour the certainty of its just recompense, and to call forth ingenuity by the most inviting encouragement. The protection of the COMPANY, therefore, is to be readily given to every able person who shall offer, recommended by any of the SUBSCRIBERS.

The talents, the skill, the expertness, or capacity, of every person so received, will be carefully explored and decided upon by proper judges. Those who have learned a handicraft-trade are to be employed therein ; if,
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in any respect, deficient, they will be improved by the instruction and example of others; if remarkable for invention, for genius, for a happiness of contrivance, or dexterity of execution, their merit will not only meet with its due reward, but their farther exertions will be put to the stretch by the laudable rivalry of other candidates for the same excellence. Thus, instead of that selfish, that solitary, that exclusive, spirit with which so many mechanics and manufacturers now work, even upon the same materials, yet in different modes, for the most part unknown to each other, the door will be thrown open to general improvement; and the ingenuity of all, the abilities of all, the discoveries of all, will be brought, as it were, into one common stock, for the relief of indigence,

indigence, for the advantage of the Company, and the ultimate, the widely-diffused, benefit of society at large.

The applicants, who may not have learned any trade, shall have liberty to attach themselves to that which they like best, if found to be effective therein. They are to be *articled*, or *apprenticed*, to the Company for a proper period; that is, till they can pass an examination, and prove themselves sufficiently instructed. Those under twenty-one years of age to be supplied with every necessary of life, and all above that age to receive the value of their labour in the manner hereafter specified. Every article to be paid for by the piece, and in no case whatever by the day. Those apprentices, as well as other persons possessing bodily strength,

strength, yet deemed incapable of works of ingenuity or elegance, shall be employed in the subordinate, the preparatory, and more laborious, parts of the several kinds of manufactures; reserving, at the same time, the lighter and easier parts for women and for children of a competent age.

On the utility, as well as humanity, of such an institution, it does not appear in any sort necessary to enlarge. The feeling heart, the enlightened mind, can want no studied form of words, no insinuating mode of argument, to recommend it. The certain consequences must be a strong incitement to industry, the accelerated progress of arts and manufactures, the removal of the strongest temptations to turbulence or dishonesty, and a complete relief to the distresses of the languishing

guishing and unemployed poor. In fact, absolute poverty, united with health, or any active power, is a sort of *monster*, which need not, and therefore ought not, to have existence in a commercial country. Though nature may form some men to be only “ hewers of wood or drawers of water,” yet, even for such, the proposed scheme secures employment : it holds out the fairest invitation to persons of superior endowments, it ever guards against the caprice of fashion, or other possible checks on any particular branch of trade, by affording to the work-people the facility of an immediate change to some pursuit not essentially different from that in which they may have been classed or instructed. Thus the clock or watch maker would find little difficulty in the application of his

his skill to the construction of mathematical or philosophical instruments, or any other pieces of curious mechanism; the man or woman, who may have been taught to throw the shuttle in silk, might easily transfer that instrument to wool, cotton, or flax; and, not to multiply superfluous instances, the joiner and cabinet-maker, the carpenter and mill-wright, could feel no great degree of awkwardness in being forced, by any accidental circumstance, to turn their hands to each others respective employments.

But the great object is not so much to prove the beneficent tendency of the undertaking, (which must be abundantly self-evident,) as to point out the most practicable method of carrying it into effect. For this purpose a fund must be raised by subscription; each

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subscriber

subscriber of £50 (than which no smaller sum should be received) to have not only the right of recommending in his turn proper objects to the establishment, but to be entitled to a share, or dividend, of the profits, which cannot fail to arise from such an institution, as might be easily demonstrated.

The first application of the money will be to procure, by lease, or purchase, a sufficient extent of ground, or of ground and houses, in some eligible situation in or near the metropolis. *St. George's Fields*, or the parts adjacent, from their vicinity to the three bridges, and other local conveniences, may be considered as well adapted to the purpose.

On the spot so chosen, the buildings might be repaired, and, if necessary,
altered

altered and improved to form workshops and warehouses, dwelling-houses and lodging-rooms, for the working-manufacturers, mechanics, and labourers, and sale-shops for supplying these people with the necessaries of life.

Farther advantages might arise from the nearness of the situation to the river. Were a canal for lighters made to pass from *Greenland-Dock* to *Vauxhall*, it might run through, or a branch might be extended therefrom, to the new settlement for the cheap and easy importation and exportation of materials and manufactures. A fair toll upon coal-barges and other craft would also gradually reimburse the expenses incurred by the Company in constructing such a canal. Besides its direct subserviency to the benefit of their own institution, it would

be of great public utility, not only by improving the navigation on the *Thames*, but favouring many other commercial purposes. To this part of the plan the ingenious Mr. JESSOP *can*, and, if called upon, I doubt not, *will*, bear ample and satisfactory testimony.

But the propriety of proceeding upon an enlarged or contracted scale must at first depend on the amount of the subscriptions; and, perhaps, it may be found advisable to begin with one particular branch of manufacture only, and to add others in regular succession, as the resources and experience of the Company shall allow and justify.

Money being only the artificial representative of real wealth, and valuable merely as the ordinary means of purchasing the necessaries or comforts of life, its circulation *within* the establishment

ment would not only be useless, but, perhaps, in some respects, mischievous. But a BOARD OF PURVEYANCE should be appointed to keep a constant and plentiful supply of provisions, firing, medicines, and every other article of obvious necessity, not manufactured or produced by the persons admitted into this institution: the purchase of such articles to be made at the first hand, and upon the most reasonable terms, consistently with their wholesomeness and excellence. All perishable surplusses to be sold to the public at a fair price.

Instead of money, as the circulating medium, it is therefore proposed to issue, weekly, subsistence-bills to each workman of the form hereto annexed. The paper may be manufactured within the establishment, very thin, with

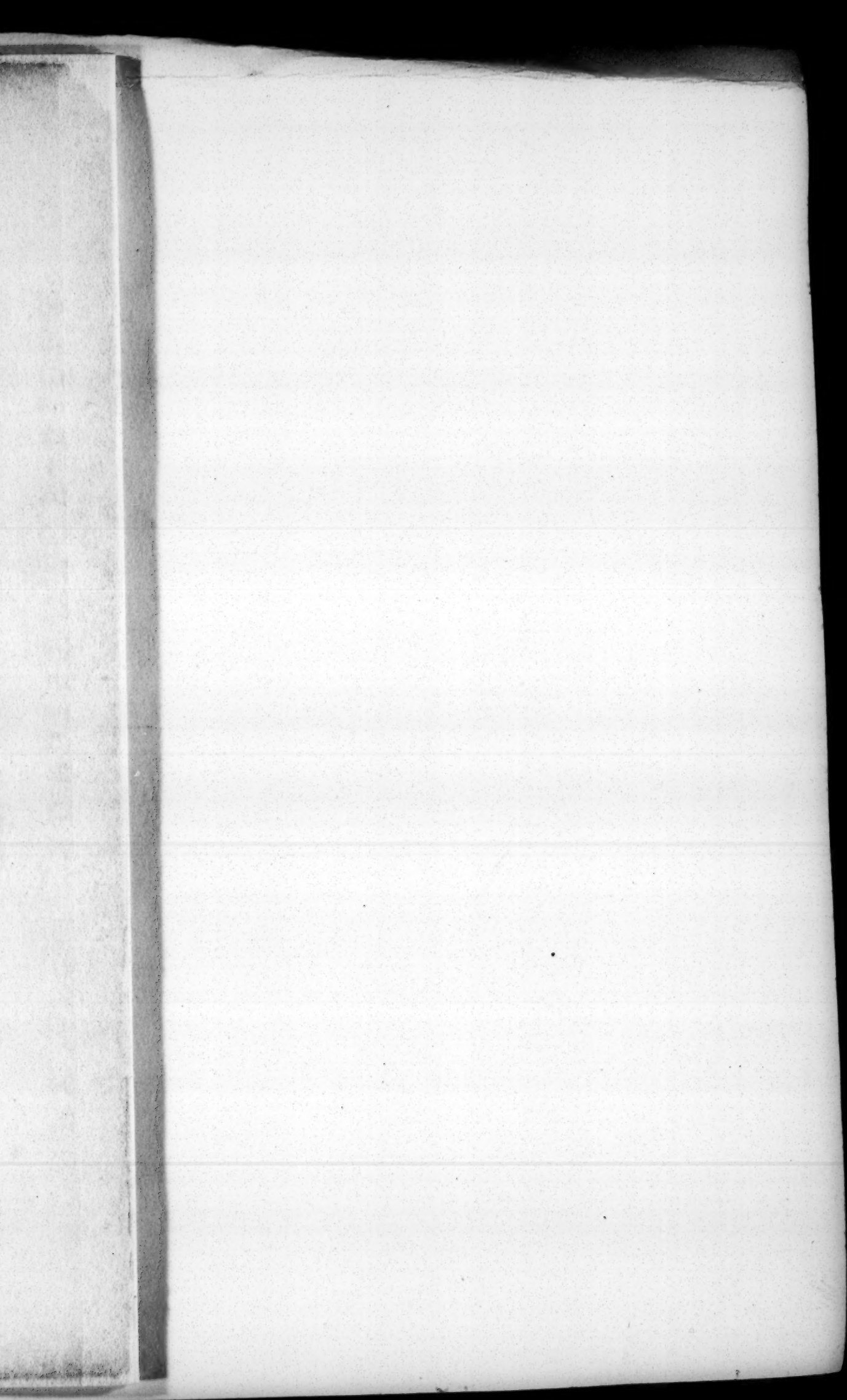
a marginal-cheque and other peculiar water-marks. The colour of the paper and ink, and the characters and sizes of the types, may be varied weekly; and, if other specific variations may be judged necessary, the part over the marginal-cheque may have some new device or motto, in any language or character, printed thereon every week; the parts in italics to be filled up in writing, and all the rest to be printed. Each workman to pay, or give security, for his first week's subsistence; and, on the Saturday night, to receive a subsistence-bill for the succeeding week, and so on from week to week. Each workman, by himself or some friend, to write down, in each day, in black ink, the quantity and quality of such provisions, or other necessaries as he may have occasion for,

for, and carry or send the same to the sale-shop; and the person who serves any article should set down the price thereof in the purchaser's bill, before delivery, in sharp, penetrating, red ink, and, perhaps, at the same time should set his initials in the margin. Each workman, every Saturday night, upon the receipt of a new bill, should deliver up his old one, fair and undamaged, to be filed in the proper office. And, whenever it may happen that any workman shall not have occasion to expend the amount of the sum for subsistence allowed in his weekly bill, the balance in his favour should be added to the sum to be allowed in the bill for the week following, and so on from week to week.

Here it may be proper to observe, that the savings of the work-people, or
rather

rather the residue-fruits of their labour, when amounting to £5 and upwards, after all the expenses of the institution are defrayed, are to be accounted a part of the capital stock, and the proprietors to be entitled to dividends accordingly.

COPY



COPY OF THE SUBSISTENCE-BILLS.

NOVEMBER, 1798.

Weekly Bill of Necessaries, &c. for JOHN THOMPSON, of
No. 2, Clay-Row, Potter.

From Saturday evening, the 18th, to Saturday evening, the 25th.

Furnish the bearer, on account of work done in the last week, to	£.	s.	d.
the value of	0	12	0
And on account of balance due to him, per last bill	0	3	6

Fifteen Shillings and Six-Pence.

HENRY GREEN, Master-Potter.

1798. Nov. 18 to 25. John Thompson, Potter.	£. s. d.	No. 121.	No. 121.
	0 12 0		
	0 3 6		
	0 15 6		

Industria parit opes.

Saturday evening, the 7th.	£.	s.	d.	Wednesday, the 11th.	£.	s.	d.
1 quarter loaf	0	0	6	1 lb. of hard soap	0	0	6
4 lb. of beef	0	1	0	1 lb. of candles	0	0	6
Salt	0	0	1	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of cheese	0	0	3
Flour	0	0	3	3 lb. of mutton	0	0	9
2 lb. of potatoes	0	0	1				
1 week's rent for 2 rooms	0	1	6				
Washing	0	0	6				
Bed-making & cleaning rooms,	0	0	6				

This part to remain in hand as a cheque.

Flour 3	3	10.	of	maison 9	9
2 lb. of potatoes 1	1	0	0	0	0
1 week's rent for 2 rooms 6	6	0	1	6	6
Washing 6	6	0	0	0	0
Bed-making & cleaning rooms, 0	0	0	0	0	0
Shaving 1	1	0	0	0	0
Sunday, the 8th.					
Porter, 1 pint 1½	1½	0	0	0	0
Milk, 1 ditto 1	1	0	0	0	0
Baking, 1 pan 1	1	0	0	0	0
Monday, the 9th.					
1 lb. of cheese 4	4	0	0	0	0
1 quart of small-beer 1	1	0	0	0	0
½ lb. of butter 3	3	0	0	0	0
A quart can 6	6	0	0	0	0
A strong chair 1	1	0	0	0	0
Tuesday, the 10th.					
A two-gallon beer-cag 4	4	0	0	0	0
Two towels 6	6	0	0	0	0
A small loaf 3	3	0	0	0	0
1 bushel of coals 1	1	0	0	0	0
Carried forward, 0 9 0½					0 9 0½
Thursday, the 12th.					
Repairing clothes 9	9	0	0	0	0
1 bunch of turnips 1	1	0	0	0	0
1 small loaf 3	3	0	0	0	0
Friday, the 13th.					
Oatmeal 1	1	0	0	0	0
Paper and pens 2	2	0	0	0	0
Milk 1	1	0	0	0	0
A spoon 2	2	0	0	0	0
Saturday, the 14th.					
1 pair of worsted hose 1	1	0	0	0	0
1 lb. of bacon 6	6	0	0	0	0
Brought forward, 0 5 7					0 5 7
Total expended in this week, 0 14 7½					0 14 7½
Balance carried to next bill, 0 0 10½					0 0 10½

I acknowledge this account to be right, JOHN THOMPSON.

Witness, JOHN SPEED, Clerk.

MAINTENANCE RECORD

DATE

TIME

LOCATION

DESCRIPTION

REMARKS

SIGNED

INITIALS

DATE

TIME

LOCATION

DESCRIPTION

REMARKS

SIGNED

INITIALS

DATE

TIME

LOCATION

DESCRIPTION

REMARKS

SIGNED

INITIALS

DATE

TIME

LOCATION

DESCRIPTION

REMARKS

Besides the BOARD OF PURVEY-
ANCE to secure proper supplies of the
necessaries of life, it is plain that, at
the very commencement of the insti-
tution, several other Boards or Com-
mittees must be appointed for the su-
perintendence and accomplishment of
the various objects which the Company
will have in view.

The first in efficiency, and, there-
fore, the first in rank, will be the
MASTER-MANUFACTURERS. These
should have the whole management
and direction of the works, and be
under no other control than that of a
GENERAL COURT.

This grand BOARD OF THE MAS-
TER-MANUFACTURERS should again
be subdivided into smaller and distinct
Committees, according to their re-
spective trades, or the nature of the

D substances

substances that constitute the materials of each manufacture: a Committee, for instance, of workers in wood, another of workers in metals, a third of weavers of every description; and so on, embracing the whole circle of the proposed community, with such modes of combination and arrangement as may be found most advantageous.

The first duty of the **BOARD OF MASTER-MANUFACTURERS** will be to select foremen of the first abilities in each department, and to lay down proper rules for their direction in classing the different workmen, in overseeing and forwarding the works, instructing the apprentices, and preserving the utmost regularity and good order.

Another great object of the **MAS-TER-MANUFACTURERS** will be to examine every new improvement and invention,

invention, and to report their opinion thereon with that candor, and even warmth, where merited, which may rouse emulation, and with that generosity which may secure to the inventors not a narrowly-calculated equivalent, but a liberal reward in the Company's stock. This, in some cases, might be from one-half to two-thirds, or three-fourths, of the clear produce of the ingenious discovery.

The reports on such occasions are to be made to another Board or Committee, which it may be deemed proper to establish, under the title of the **SCIENTIFIC BOARD**, consisting of natural and experimental philosophers, chemists, mathematicians, and men of eminent mechanical talents, well qualified, not only to assist in deciding on the merit of others, but, by a

happy combination of their own efforts, to enlarge the sphere of useful knowledge, to make interesting experiments on capital scales, trace out new models, and suggest a variety of desirable improvements.

A **MERCANTILE BOARD** may also be necessary to direct the importation of raw materials, and to point out the best foreign markets for the exportation of such of the manufactures as may be prepared for that purpose. The aid and advice of the **MASTER-MANUFACTURERS** will also be found serviceable to the **MERCANTILE BOARD**, in regulating by the fairest standard the prices of the articles to be exported.

As to the disposal of goods designed for home-consumption, it seems that they should, in the first instance, be offered

offered to the Master-Manufacturers *within* the establishment; that the second refusal be given to the Master-Manufacturers *without* the establishment; thirdly, to shop-keepers known to be dealers in the articles they apply for; and, lastly, to the public, or general body of consumers.

A BOARD OF ACCOUNTS, a BOARD OF HEALTH, and others of the like importance or convenience, may be added to those already noticed.

One or other of those Boards or Committees should sit every evening, Sundays excepted, and should take cognizance of every pressing circumstance that may occur, affecting the general interests of the Company, though not specifically within the precise care of the Board then sitting. This Board should also be invested with authority,
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in such cases, to vary the rota of the other Boards according to the exigency of the occasion.

Perhaps it would be proper to impose a small penalty or forfeiture, out of any member's share of the common stock, for every time he neglected to attend his proper Committee, unless with the permission of the president.

A GRAND BOARD, composed, if not of all the members of the other Boards, at least of their chairmen or presidents in quality of their representatives, should be holden as often as may be found necessary, to examine and improve, if in their power, the reports, to be made by the separate Boards to the GENERAL COURTS. These GENERAL COURTS to sit monthly, and oftener, if requisite, to receive reports from the several Boards or Committees, and

and to confirm, annul, refer, or amend, the same, as their united judgement may dictate. At such monthly assemblies, also, the accounts should be audited and the dividends declared, and either paid to the proper claimant, or added to the capital stock, at the option of each member respectively.

As the institution is to be founded by Master-Manufacturers, and as its existence and prosperity must chiefly depend on their exertions, it is right that they should have free access to all Boards and Committees, besides their own, to observe the proceedings, and interpose their opinion whenever they may think it necessary. It will be equally proper to require the attendance of the foremen at each Board or Committee of the Master-Manufacturers to consult them, and to lay

a due stress on their observations in every matter within the sphere of their intelligence or action.

Without entering into farther details, it is presumed this sketch will awaken the attention of all good men to so important a subject. The proposer has no occasion to make any professions of his disinterestedness or of the purity of his motives: he thinks his character, his past conduct, and his situation in life, place him above the reach of suspicion. He expects, indeed, to derive from this plan the pleasure of being instrumental in promoting private and public good. As to the emoluments which may arise from such an undertaking, none of them can, none of them ought to be exclusive; they will be shared in common with every subscriber who may

may concur in these propofals. A line expreffive of that concurrence, and affording even the flighteft hint of farther improvement, will be efteemed a particular favor, and will be refpectfully answered, in due time, by

JAMES PEACOCK,

No. 17, Finsbury-Square, London.



Lately published,

By the Author of this Treat,

And may be had of EOLIN and PEPYS, in
Chifwell-Street:

I. OIKIDIA, or Nutshells; being Plans
for small Houses. Price 5s. in
boards.

II. A short Account of a new Method
of Filtration by Ascent. Price 2s.
stitched.

N: B. As it has frequently happened that the water
to be filtered has come in so extremely thick and turbid,
as suddenly and totally to stop up the interstices of the
filtering agent, (*described in the above-mentioned Pamph-*
let,) so as it could not be cleared by the ordinary
reflux of the water; the inventor has determined, in all
cases hereafter, to add a small forcer to the apparatus,
whereby the power of the agent may be completely re-
stored at any time in the space of one minute, whenever
it may be found necessary.



